

Those who vote "no" should take a good look in the mirror.

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE
WILLARD CURTIN

HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 1996

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, Henry David Thoreau wrote in 1849:

Even the death of friends will inspire us as much as their lives. . . . Their memories will be encrusted over with sublime and pleasing thoughts, as monuments of other men are overgrown with moss, for our friends have no place in the graveyard.

I am here today to honor the memory of Willard Curtin, who served in this esteemed body as the Representative from my district from 1957 until his retirement in 1967.

Mr. Curtin's life was dedicated to public service and his memory should inspire us all.

Before running for Congress, Mr. Curtin served as Bucks County's district attorney from 1949 to 1953. Prior to that, he was Bucks County's first assistant district attorney.

He ran for Congress in 1956 to succeed retiring Representative Karl C. King. His campaign theme was based on his belief that President Eisenhower's policies were sound and should be continued. He served Bucks and Lehigh Counties during the Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson administrations.

Mr. Curtin retired to Florida where he continued to lead an active life. His grandson will always remember him as the energetic, active, sharp minded man that he was, even to the end of his life. He also will share with his grandchildren this story: One of Mr. Curtin's most prized possessions was his grandfather clock. When he would go away, Mr. Curtin would stop the clock's pendulum so it would not disturb the other residents in his building. Even though he had not traveled in a long time, the clock was stopped 6 minutes after 1 o'clock. The coroner later estimated the time of his death to be at 1:10 a.m.

I ask you all to join me in remembering the hard work and dedication that Mr. Curtin gave to this country so generously.

TRIBUTE TO HARVEY D. KERN

HON. ANTHONY BEILENSEN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 1996

Mr. BEILENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute today to Harvey D. Kern, who is retiring as director of public affairs for the Los Angeles County-University of Southern California [LAC-UCS] Medical Center.

In addition to serving as director of public affairs for over 9 years, Mr. Kern oversees volunteer and chaplain services and serves as a government relations representative for the medical center, which is the largest acute care hospital in the United States and provides a variety of patient care services, teaching and research opportunities, and includes the largest HIV/AIDS outpatient center in the country.

Mr. Kern is a native of Los Angeles and received his bachelor of science degree in pub-

lic health from UCLA and his master of health science degree from Cal State University, Northridge [CSUN]. His long and distinguished career in the health care field includes 32 years with the Los Angeles County Department of Health Sciences, as a faculty member of CSUN for 23 years, and as an assistant professor at USC. He is a fellow in the American Public Health Association, past president of the Los Angeles County Health Services Management Forum, and serves on the joint public affairs committee of the California Healthcare Association.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us today in saluting Harvey D. Kern for his many years of dedicated service in the health care field. We send our warmest congratulations on his many contributions and accomplishments, and our very best wishes for the future.

HARD BARGAIN FARM—ALICE
FERGUSON FOUNDATION

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 1996

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the Alice Ferguson Foundation and the Hard Bargain Farm Environmental Center located in Accokeek, MD. On January 23, Hard Bargain Farm was named the winner of Renew America's National Environmental Award. This award is part of the 6th annual Renew America National Awards for Environmental Sustainability. The awards are given each year to programs throughout the Nation that demonstrate leadership and excellence in environmental sustainability.

I have long been a supporter of the educational programs offered by Hard Bargain Farm and commend them on this selection from a pool of over 1600 applicants in 24 categories. I have been honored to work hand in hand with them throughout the Fifth Congressional District to protect the Potomac River through education efforts, environmental stewardship, and conservation action projects.

Mr. Speaker, this recognition of Hard Bargain's achievement and dedication to the environment marks two important firsts. Not only is this the first time that Renew America has honored a Maryland organization in the institutional education category, but it is also the first time that a National Park Program has received such recognition.

For the past 25 years, Mr. Speaker, Hard Bargain Farm has worked in a unique and highly effective partnership with the National Park Service to develop quality environmental education programs. I commend the leadership and experience of the Alice Ferguson Foundation and am very proud to rise today with my colleagues in recognition of this very special award.

THE PUBLIC'S TRUST

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for

Wednesday, February 21, 1996, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

IMPROVING PUBLIC TRUST IN GOVERNMENT

It is no longer news that Americans have lost confidence in the federal government. Anger at the government and disgust with elected officials have increased, causing voters to jump in different directions. Americans believe government fails to deal adequately with crime, economic insecurity, and other of the country's biggest problems. They have concluded that government either makes things worse or is incapable of making them better.

It has always been true that people in this country have been skeptical of power and have cherished the right to beat up on their leaders, and in many respects that attitude is healthy. The Constitution of the United States is based on assumptions of wariness of government and each other. That's what checks and balances are all about.

But most elected officials, including me, believe today that public cynicism is severe, intense and stronger than it once was. Restoring confidence in government actions is a daunting task.

CAUSES

Most agree that the distrust of government and elected officials reflects a broader loss of reliance on each other, a civic breakdown in which divorce, crime, and economic anxiety all play important roles. Many Americans are frustrated by an increasingly impersonal economy. Their anxieties are fostered by a changing economy and the highly partisan nature of current politics. People wonder whether there's anything they can depend on. More fundamentally, the experts think that the mistrust of government is part of a larger problem. Americans just don't trust one another as much as they used to.

The media bear some responsibility for the mistrust of government as well. They tend to emphasize and encourage conflict and to downplay consensus. They encourage people to think things are worse than they are. You cannot be very upbeat after watching the evening news. It certainly exaggerates the violent and the sensational, and reduces complexity to a 15 second sound bite. The impact of television often is to isolate people; prevent sustained engagement with other people; and, because of its emphasis on violence and the dark side of human nature, increase pessimism about our fellow human beings.

Elected officials, of course, share much of the blame. It has become easier to lead people by dividing them than by finding areas of agreement. Running against the government in order to serve in it has been the standard practice in American politics for a long time. Elected officials take great delight in attacking the very institutions they serve in and are responsible for. They also create high expectations by promising quick-fix solutions but rarely delivering on them.

SOLUTIONS

So how do we deal with these problems of distrust? It's very clear that political rhetoric will not help much. The credibility of all elected officials is simply too low.

It is important that elected officials try to connect with people through town meetings and face-to-face contact. In the end there's really no substitute for an elected official to spend time with his or her constituents. People want their representatives to listen and be accountable. They have to see some connection between themselves and the government. But there are limits to public meetings. After all, elected officials have been holding them for years without putting the brakes on public distrust of government.

Elected officials have to learn to promise less and produce more. They can help by not

promising anything they cannot deliver. They have to make people comfortable with government, and that means producing what the citizens want. In more specific terms it means ongoing efforts to balance the budget and reform education, welfare, and other areas of public dissatisfaction. But there are limitations even to government reform. Reforms always fall short of their goals and the standard political reform agenda, while it may be worthwhile, does not solve all the problems.

Elected officials also have to do a better job of giving people basic facts. One recent poll showed that most Americans can't name their member of Congress or the Vice President, or believe, incorrectly, that more federal money is spent on foreign aid than on Medicare. In a time when there is an explosion of information, data and statistics, it's important to try to identify those facts which are more important than others. Each of us has to take seriously our responsibilities to make ourselves well-informed citizens.

I also happen to think that elected officials need to pay less attention to public opinion polls which now dominate American politics. The idea that elected officials listen to the pros and cons and then make judgments and go back and explain them is still a pretty good basic approach to government. Restoring civility in political debate can help too. No matter how much elected officials disagree with one another at the end of the day they have to sit down with each other and try to reach an agreement.

There also has to be a lot more emphasis on the many good things that are happening in our families, communities, and states. People everywhere every day act in such ways to restore trust, but it often gets little attention. This is not a time for handwringing, but a time to point out the good things, and build upon our successes.

CONCLUSION

It's important to remember in the end that we as a nation cannot thrive or survive without public faith in our institutions, our economic destiny, and our own values.

Three decades ago a majority of Americans believed that most people could be trusted. Today two out of three believe the opposite. We have to ask ourselves what happened to a nation of endless optimism, opportunity, and good heartedness. Many things have set us back: job layoffs and economic insecurity, crime and drugs, government scandals and policy failures. This will not be quickly turned around, but we must make the effort.

The other day I ran into a constituent who said to me he did not know the names of any of his elected officials. He could not name the Vice President or identify the majority party in Congress. He said to me, "I don't care. I just don't have time for it." I strongly suspect that gentleman does not have the right solution to our problems.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE JOHNSON

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 1996

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Steve Johnson who is celebrating 30 years of faithful service to the Baptist Church. Having served as the pastor of Mabel White Memorial Baptist Church, in Macon, GA, since 1984, Steve Johnson is a man who is loved by the members of his church and all those who know him. Through

his commitment to serving God and the church, Steve has touched and changed the lives of many special people.

Steve Johnson also deserves to be recognized for his outstanding service to the community of Macon. Serving on the board of directors for the Cherry Blossom Festival and the First Presbyterian Day School, Steve is working with others to make our communities happier and safer places to live and raise our families. I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to know Steve and his wife Connie for many years, and I am proud to call them friends. I hope you will join me in congratulating Steve during this special time in his life and for 30 years of unparalleled service to the Baptist Church.

THE ENTREPRENEURIAL INVESTMENT ACT

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 1996

Mr. BAKER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced legislation that will be known as the Entrepreneurial Investment Act. The legislation will make it possible for roughly 5,000 of the Nation's 5,300 bank holding companies to make equity investments in the customers of their community-based banks.

Business often needs equity capital to create new or retain existing jobs. This legislation acknowledges that a community banker knows his customer and is well positioned to invest some of his excess holding company capital in equity investments. Passage of the Entrepreneurial Investment Act will mean that communities will be better served by facilitating private sector economic development and job growth.

This legislation has been drafted in consultation with the Federal Reserve.

EFFORTS TO PREVENT POACHING

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 1996

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, wildlife poaching in Africa has reached such proportions that elephant and endangered rhinoceros populations have been decimated in several countries. The poaching goes on because of the demand for ivory and animal parts used in traditional medicine in Asia. At one time, wildlife conservation groups criticized the Republic of China on Taiwan for not doing enough to stop this traffic into Taiwan. The Government there has long since cracked down with strict enforcement and stiff penalties for offenders.

Now, they have opened a new front in the war on wildlife poaching. The Government of the Republic of China on Taiwan has just announced a grant to the nonprofit United States-based Wilderness Conservancy to purchase a special spotter airplane that will be used in Kruger National Park in South Africa, where game rangers will patrol with it to locate poachers before they do their dirty work. The airborne spotters will radio the location of potential poachers to rangers on the ground who

will apprehend them. Kruger is one of the world's great game reserves and has only recently begun to feel the threat of poaching. The Wilderness Conservancy is experienced in assisting antipoaching forces throughout Southern Africa, with spotter aircraft and a range of supplies and support services for game rangers and their families.

Saving the rhinoceros and elephant from extinction is dangerous, round-the-clock work. This generous gift makes possible a unique three-way cooperative effort between the people of Taiwan, a conservation-minded American organization and the men and women on the antipoaching front lines in South Africa.

THE LONG ISLAND ADVANCE'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY—PURCHASED FOR \$500 IN 1871

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 1996

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to congratulate the Long Island Advance for 125 years of dedicated service to the people of Suffolk County.

"The Policy of Honesty—The Might of Right and The Expediency of Principle," were words that appeared in large type across the top of the first page of the Advance when it was first published in September 1871.

Now, reaching the century and a quarter mark with its 125th anniversary edition scheduled for the first issue in September 1996, many changes have taken place in printing, personnel, and location, but the spirit expressed then continues today.

The Advance was the third newspaper to be established in Patchogue, Long Island, NY. The pioneer weekly was the Suffolk Herald founded by a Mr. Van Zandt and discontinued in 1865. In 1870, the Long Island Star was brought to Patchogue by John S. Evans from Port Jefferson. After a few issues it collapsed.

Timothy J. Dyson, a former newspaper correspondent and printer from Brooklyn, purchased \$500 worth of equipment that Auston Roe, a member of one of Patchogue's oldest families, had bought from what was left of the short-lived Star. Mr. Dyson, with this equipment from the remnants of the old Star, founded and renamed the paper the Advance. He set about keeping pace with the village of Patchogue, the town of Brookhaven, the County of Suffolk, and even Long Island as a whole, with bits and pieces of the entire world thrown in.

Communications then, not being what they are today, often left much to be desired. Editors were hard-pressed to get news, and sermons often took up a great deal of space on the front pages, because in effect, villages in those days revolved around the church.

Although the Advance suffered many ups and downs, and rapid changes of proprietorship in its earliest days, its course was firmly charted and for the past 103 years, under the ownership of one family, it has weathered many storms to sail a true course, constantly gaining in circulation. After 125 years of serving the community at large, it is one of Long Island's better known weekly newspapers.

Thomas S. Heatley purchased the Advance in 1876 but sold it in 1885 to Rev. S. Fielder